



Representative

***Beverly
Woods***

23rd District

Report to the 23rd District 2001 Legislature

Committees:

Transportation
Capital Budget
Rules
Trade and Economic Development
Legislative Transportation Committee
Joint Task Force on Ferries
Joint Task Force on State Parks

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State government on the Internet:

<http://access.wa.gov>



Dear Friends,

The Legislature convened January 8 with the House of Representatives again tied 49 Republicans and 49 Democrats. We will all need to work together to find on-going funding for our ferry system and roads. This will be my number one priority for the 2001 session. Last year, we worked to address the impacts of Initiative 695 and November's most recent voter-approved initiatives will again impact the state budget. But I will continue to work to protect our transportation needs.

Among my priorities will be increasing efficiency and accountability in government. I will also work on ways to help with economic development for Kitsap County.

Serving as your state representative this past year, I have learned a great deal about the people of our community and what they expect from their state government. I will be supporting legislation to address our energy needs, preserve our environment while protecting your property rights and improving our schools and public safety. I hope my plan of action empowers and improves the quality of life of our citizens.

I hope you find the enclosed information useful. I also would like to get your opinions on the issues that are most important to you. Please read and complete the attached survey card and return it to my Olympia office. Also, let me know if you have any questions by contacting my office by mail, phone, mail, email or through the toll-free Legislative Hotline. Together, we can make meaningful improvements in the way government serves its citizens.

Thank you again for the honor of representing you.

Sincerely,

Beverly Woods

Beverly Woods
State Representative

Representative **Beverly Woods**

The 2001-03 Budget

This year, the Legislature is required to approve a two-year spending plan. Gov. Gary Locke proposed his version of the budget in December and the Legislature is now working on its proposal. Unfortunately, Locke proposed only enough highway money for maintenance and preservation, ignoring our state's very serious transportation needs. His budget contains virtually no evidence of the two-year effort and thousands of taxpayer dollars that went into the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations.



tation budget, while the LTC is a group of House and Senate members. The Rules Committee is also important to transportation issues as Rules members vote to decide which pieces of legislation are allowed to be considered by the full House of Representatives.

Joint Task Force on Ferries

Since its July inception, I have been a member of the bipartisan panel made up of legislators, transit officials, citizens, and union representatives charged with determining what the ferry system should look like and who should pay for it. Fare-box recovery was the main topic, with the determined target an 80 percent fare-box recovery in six years. On Jan. 15, the task force recommendations were sent to the Legislature. As a member of the task force, I believe we could have done a better job of identifying cost-saving measures. I am also working to exempt maintenance costs from the fare-box recovery level. However, it's important to remember these findings are not a mandate, only a base from which legislators will begin their work, eventually deciding upon a two-year funding level.



Did you know?

Gov. Locke's Proposed Budget:

- Spends \$22.726 billion
- Makes only \$342 million in spending cuts
- Adds \$1.2 billion in new spending
- Spends \$425 million more than estimated revenue for the 2001-03 biennium.
- Transfers \$170 million from the emergency reserve fund to pay for transportation – only enough to pay for maintenance and preservation.
- Consists of a \$9.6 billion transportation project list with NO REVENUE SOURCE IDENTIFIED TO FUND ANY OF THE NEW PROJECTS.
- Leaves only \$157 million in unrestricted reserves and an additional \$433 million in the emergency reserve fund.

Transportation

Kitsap Peninsula residents depend heavily on transportation to survive. Funding decisions hit us directly in the pocketbook. The ferries are not just a way for Kitsap residents to get to work and home, but also a way for visitors to come to Kitsap County. They are vital to our economic development and must be sustained. This year, I was assigned to the Transportation Committee, Legislative Transportation Committee (LTC) and the Rules Committee. These are three important spots from which I will work to protect and improve our ferry system. The Transportation Committee develops the House version of the state transpor-



The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation Report

Our state's economy relies on an efficient transportation system. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation, a 46-member panel of elected officials, business members and citizens, spent two years studying the state's 20-year transportation needs. It was created by the Legislature and Gov. Locke to develop a plan while lawmakers use existing revenue to fix the most urgent traffic needs. In November, the BRC recommended spending \$50 billion over 20 years. I will give this report very serious consideration and look forward to working on a bipartisan basis to achieve these goals.

Report to the 23rd District

Other Major Issues

Capital Projects:

In 2000, we secured funding for a parking lot at Olympic College and I will work again on the House Capital Budget Committee, which is responsible for state-owned buildings. This year, the college has requested dollars to replace the physical plant building and I will work to make sure the projected funding remains on schedule for completion in 2003.

Energy:

Gov. Locke has unveiled several energy proposals aimed at encouraging conservation and diversifying Washington's energy system, unfortunately, the package fails to provide a comprehensive long-term solution to the region's power shortage.

Tax credits and conservation appeals represent a step in the right direction, and our governor is offering some important ideas that I support, but his proposals fail to address the key issue, which is providing sufficient energy supplies to meet our future needs.

The state hasn't made a major commitment to new generation since the 1970s. We must increase our generation capacity or this energy crisis will begin weighing on our economy and keeping energy costs high for quite some time.

Republicans have proposed legislation aimed at addressing the issue of energy supply. Our plan would streamline regulations, giving the governor authority to expedite the siting of new generation facilities.

We have facilities in this state that are ready to be built - they're just waiting for permits from state agencies. The governor must streamline the bureaucracy so these facilities can begin producing power.

Salmon and Shorelines:

There are close to 135 miles of shoreline in Kitsap County and changes being implemented by the governor and the Department of Ecology to the Shoreline Management Act will become a financial burden to the local government in the 23rd District. The DOE's attempt to establish policy without legislative oversight is being examined by legislators this session.

I will also seek funding for Steel Creek in Brownsville. The area needs a fish ladder to remedy the problems



Rep. Beverly Woods discusses legislation with a colleague on the House floor.

caused by the fact that a road has barricaded the creek's important salmon spawning route.

Public Safety:

Many residents are understandably concerned when they hear of sex offenders relocating to their neighborhood. So, when a sex offender moves into the neighborhood of their victim, you can imagine the fear may become too much to bear.

We must limit access to victims of sexual predators by including a no-contact order within the release agreement. A county or city prosecutor shouldn't have to ask a judge to make sure sexual offenders don't try to contact their victims, the order should be automatic. This session, I have sponsored legislation that will automatically include a no-contact order when a sex offender is released from custody. Plus, the bill will stipulate the offender must not knowingly reside within one mile of the victim.

Tell me what's important to you

Please rank the following issues on a scale of one to five, with one being very important and five being not important to you. When you're done, you can cut along the dotted line and return this card to me at P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, Wash. 98504-0600. I also invite you to include your comments. If you'd like more information on the progress of issues that are important to you, please provide an address or e-mail address and I'll be glad to keep you informed.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| _____ Education | _____ Ferry and highway funding/improvements |
| _____ Prescription drug costs | _____ Environment |
| _____ Property rights | _____ Limiting state regulations |
| _____ Controlling energy costs | _____ Preventing crime/public safety |
| _____ Reducing taxes and spending | _____ Other _____ |

Comments

☐ Please send me more information on the issues that I've indicated are more important to me:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Your Kitsap Coalition

For the 2001 session, Kitsap legislators, including Reps. Kathy Haigh, Bill Eickmeyer, Phil Rockefeller, Pat Lantz and Brock Jackley and Sens. Betti Sheldon, Tim Sheldon, Bob Oke and myself will meet each week. At these meetings, we put aside party labels to work together on the issues important to our area. If you have ideas of issues for these meetings, please contact my office.



----- Cut along this line -----

Report to the 23rd District

Survey enclosed!
Please tell me what's
important to you.

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Olympia, WA 98504-0600

**Representative
Beverly Woods**

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